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ABSTRACT

Project REACH was established at Green Sea Floyds (South Carolina) High School during the 1990-91 school year as a mechanism for grassroots change in the humanities program. The activities involved in the project were collaboratively developed by students and teachers. The central theme, "Backroads: A Look at Northwestern Horry County," focused on the unique qualities of the students in the Green Sea Floyds area as well as the rich cultural heritage from which students had to draw. Students were involved in producing original work that incorporated information from published materials, interviews, and other materials. The instructional program emphasized the application of learning rather than the memorization and recall of facts. Authentic assessment was stressed, with the teacher sharing with others the job of evaluating what the students had done. Cooperative editing teams and outside mentors contributed to assessment to give each student a more in depth assessment and feedback for improvement. The process of assessment emphasized learning over grading. (LBG)

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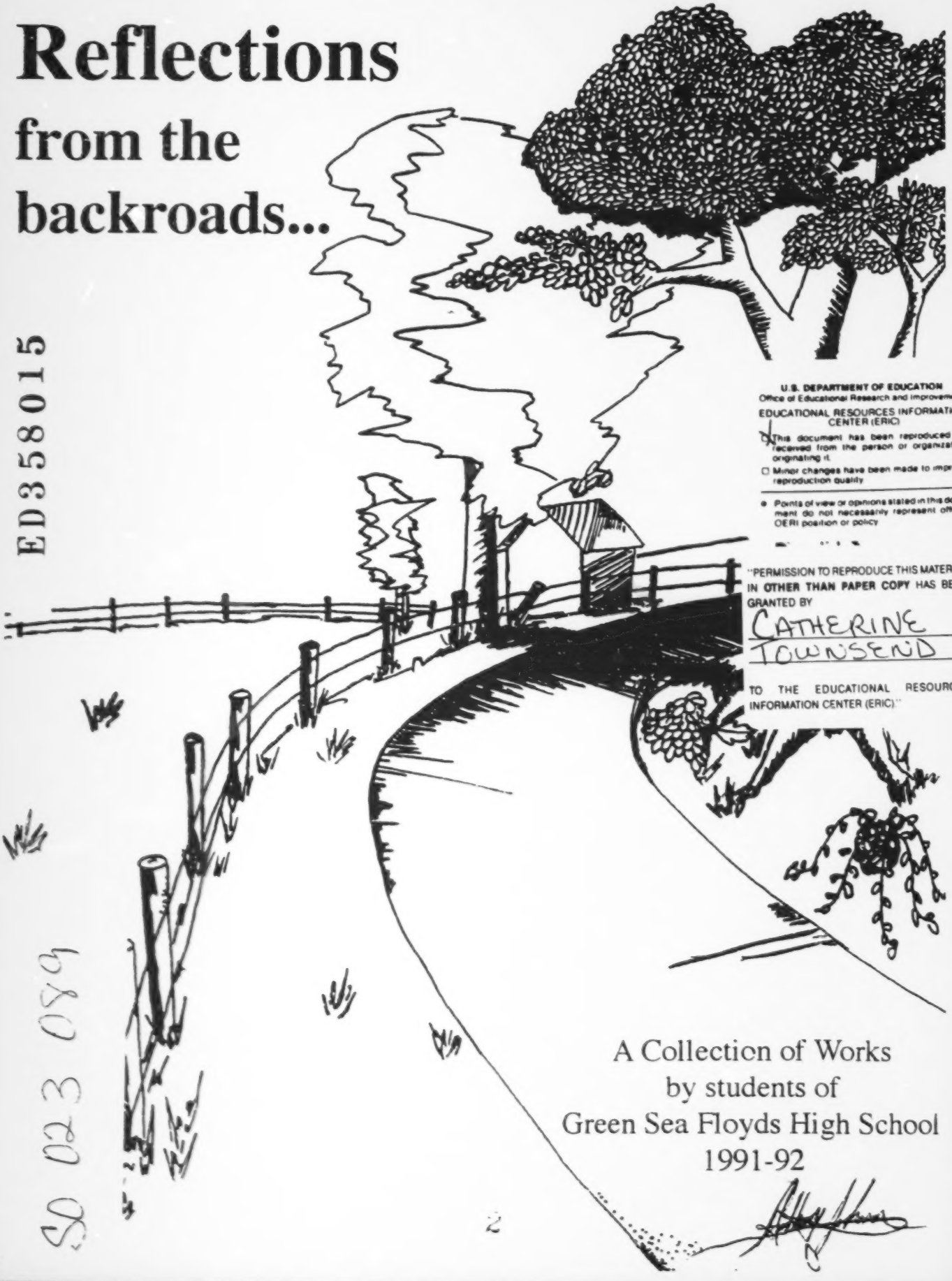
Reflections
from the backroads...



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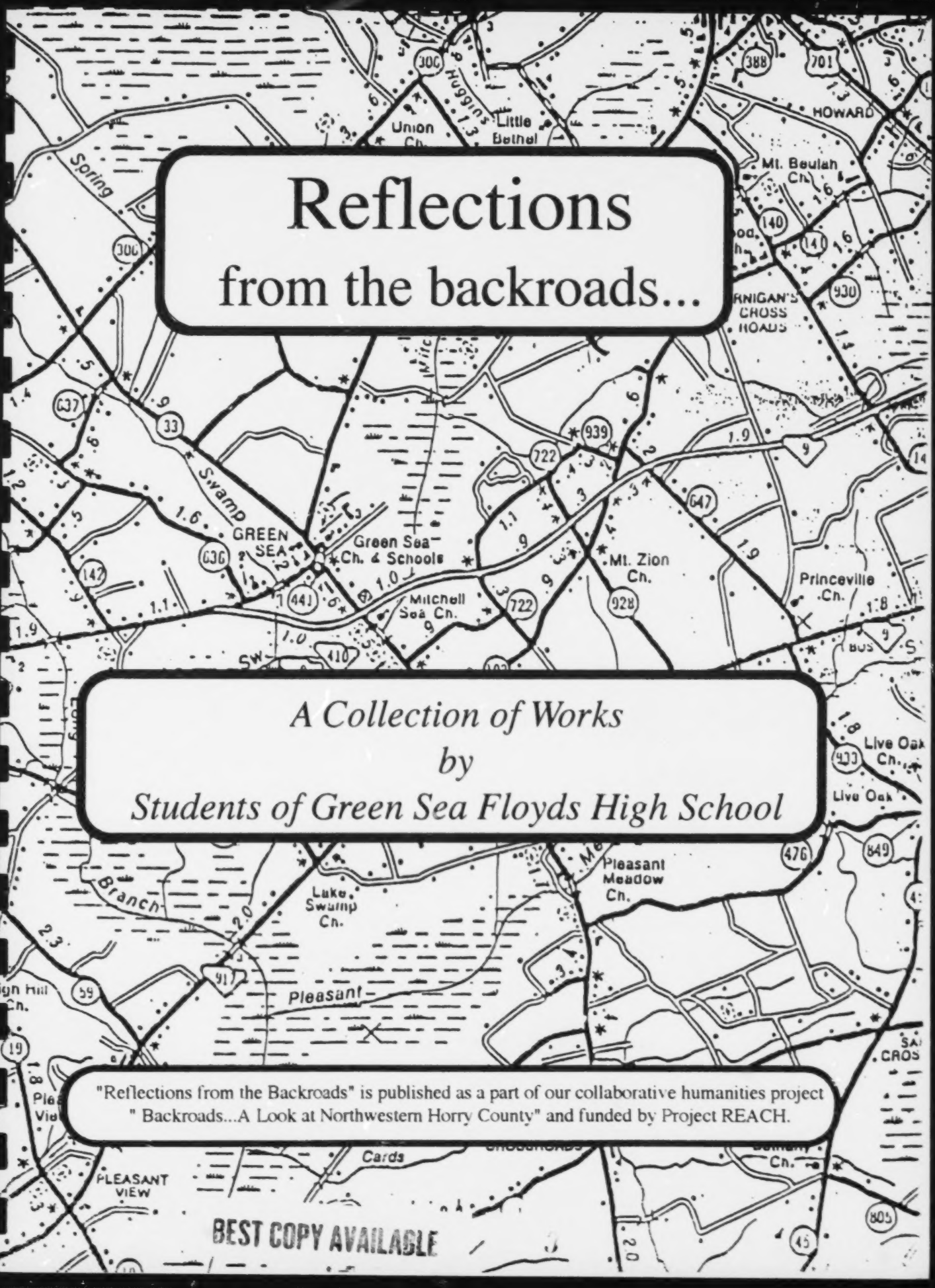

Reflections from the backroads...

A Collection of Works
by
Students of Green Sea Floyds High School

"Reflections from the Backroads" is published as a part of our collaborative humanities project " Backroads...A Look at Northwestern Horry County" and funded by Project REACH.

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Introduction

Project REACH was established at Green Sea Floyds High School during the 1990-91 school year as a mechanism for grassroots change in the humanities program. The activities involved in the project are determined collaboratively by students and teachers. Our central theme "Backroads...A Look at Northwestern Horry County" focuses on the unique qualities and abilities of the students in the Green Sea- Floyds area as well as the rich cultural heritage from which we have to draw. Students are involved in producing original works that incorporate information gained not only from published material, but also from interviews with community and family members. Students also gather information from church histories, family Bibles, newspaper articles, etc. to gain a knowledge of the community and family of which they are part. The instructional program emphasizes the application of learning rather than the memorization and recall of facts.

Authentic assessment of the work is also stressed. The teacher shares the job of evaluating what the student has done with others. Cooperative editing teams and outside mentors contribute to the assessment process to give the student a more indepth assessment of the work and provide feedback for improvement. The process of assessment emphasizes learning over grading.

REACH is a member of the national Collaboratives for Humanities and Arts Teaching (CHART) formed by the Rockefeller Foundation to spearhead education reform through local, teacher-centered initiatives to improve the school curriculum. CHART is operated in collaboration with the President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities. Through its innovative work in many schools around the state and through its brokering of collaborations among schools, colleges, and cultural organizations, REACH has grown to be a catalyst in South Carolina for school-based change through improvement in humanities teaching, collaboration via electronic networks, and state-wide leadership for curriculum and testing reform. Through an alliance of such programs supported by the Bingham Trust for Charity, the BellSouth Foundation, and the national Endowment for the Humanities, REACH has become a major link among people and institutions dedicated to education.

1991-92 REACH School Committee

Linda Anderson
Marcia Hayes
Linda Neal
Darrell Ricketts, Chairman

I Want to Be a Child Again

by: Chris Collins

I want to be a child again. When I was a child I had little worries. I played all day at school, came home, played the rest of the day, and went to bed. I did this all week, and then on Saturday I watched cartoons. The biggest thing I had to do was be quiet in church on Sunday.

Now I work at school and come home and work the rest of the day. I have a lot of worries, like deadlines. I work on Saturdays, and Sundays never change. I always have to be quiet in church on Sundays. From an older person's point of view, teens "don't know anything yet." But with experience we will learn about life and its good and bad points.

COLORS

Is it because I'm black
That you turn and walk away?
When I'm lying on my back
You have nothing to say.

Can't you see my brothers dying,
But you don't even care.
Can't you see their souls are crying,
But you are unaware.

They're being slain day by day
for the color or their skin.
Can't you bid your hate away?
So that maybe we can win?

A war of colors that seems so endless.
Can't you put your prejudice to rest?
So that maybe we can win this
and live our life, the best.

Angela Soles

My Dog Bo

My favorite dog was named Bo. He was white with big black spots on his sides. Bo was a very big dog and liked to go hunting and fishing with me all the time. He would catch cats and eat them. If someone would bother me, he would growl or bite at them. Bo was a very good dog when it came to playing ball. I could take the bat and hit the ball in the yard, and he would bring it to me. I would always rub his head when he brought me the ball. If I didn't rub his head, he would get mad and bark at me. I loved him very much. Then one day while I was at school, some fool ran over him with a big black truck. I was very upset about it for a long time. I will always love my dog Bo.

Frankie Bell

A Lie

by Hollie Martin

A lie is the most awful thing to tell,
whether it be big or - if even small.
it can cause a special friendship to fail.
One's real trust in you will surely fall.

When you stoop love enough, lie to a friend,
oh, that is the worst thing that can be done.
That can really cause a friendship to end,
and that can never be any real fun.

Lies are like flies; they can really bug you.
When you tell a lie, it is hard to mend.
When you tell a lie, it will lead to two.
Lies will build up and hurt you in the end.

So, before you open you mouth to lie,
if you lose a friend, remember that's why.

My Mother

by Norman Young

How many stars can you
find in the sky,
How many fishes are in the
deep blue sea?
It is all things that make
you want to cry
As she loves, cares, and
really tends for me.
how many mothers cares,
like a special toy,
How many seem to be the one for life.
A joy, for Norman, a graceful boy.
It all comes down to whom I love the best,
Not comparing her to all the rest.
I love her, need her, to expand my life.
My mother, the only one for me,
Is the one that I wish I could be.

Graduation '92: My Year As a Senior

It seems like school began just the other day, and now it is only a few days before graduation. The thought of graduation brings happy thoughts as well as thoughts of sadness. The idea of leaving high school makes me feel proud because I have overcome a great obstacle in my life. It also makes me glad because I know that I am getting older and becoming less dependent on my family. Sadness comes when I think that I may never see my friends again. We could lose contact. I dread the thought of not being able to talk to them at my leisure. As far as school itself, I seriously doubt that I'll miss the classes, maybe the teachers, but definitely not the classes. Not to mention those delicious cafeteria meals, NOT! The time I spent devouring those morsels will enter my mind every time I sit to eat lunch anywhere else. I will miss walking down the hall shouting, "I'm a Senior!" The theme song for our Junior Prom was "Where Do We Go From Here." Now, the question is where do we really go from here? Wherever we go from here, we will be on the bottom trying once again to climb to the top. I will not miss walking down the hall, almost being run over by students running to see a fight that just broke out or having break taken away because of the fight. I also hate the fact that our senior trip fell through, because that may have been our last chance to spend time together as a senior class.

I guess overall there are more things that will make me happy than sad, but nevertheless, I am glad to be an almost "former-student of Green Sea Floyds." I have enjoyed my Senior Year, and the Class of 1992 will always be remembered.

Va'Nessa Dewitt

Fear of Everyone

On November 17 a young lady named Crystal Todd was found in a ditch off a dirt road outside of Conway, South Carolina, not far from my home. She had been stabbed thirty-one times. Violence in America today is getting worse, and soon no one will be safe.

Crystal Todd was not someone I had known, but I had friends who knew her and she was my age. She was brutally murdered, by someone who was supposed to have been her "friend." I think that most teenagers today believe their lives are indispensable, and therefore, they are careless. This causes them to take risks that often lead to injury or death to themselves and others.

Also, the individuals who commit crimes are not being punished severely enough. This may be why criminals do not refrain from breaking the law in the first place.

Drastic changes need to be made to protect the innocent people. I hope the future gets better for the next generation so they won't have to fear everyone.

Helen Abrams

GIVE OR TAKE
by Rhett Jordan

The people of the world.
The good.
The bad.
The ones that give and share.
The ones that kill and take.
Those who strive for justice.
Those who strive for revenge.
Who is to say who to kill and
not to have revenge.
Who gives the right to take
what is not theirs?
Why all this injustice,
The greed, hate and lust for
richness?
Who says we shall kill for a
killing?
Why not love, share
Because people of the world
are different.
Some hate and some don't.
Some take and some give.

War and Peace

War is a time when everything seems dark
Or it maybe a sign to revive your sins
But finally life is given a sudden spark
It gives everyone a feeling to be near their kin
Which make us begin to show recovery
There seems to be no excuse for what happens
Therefore each person begins a discovery.

Peace is never postponed or prolonged
But forms a sense of pride and loyalty
Whereas many think peace can last forever
Or they think peace is a form of royalty
The idea of peace was somewhat clever
But again there will be peace
somewhere on earth,
Others think their theory of peace is never.

Willard McCray

Graduation

School is almost over, and I will be out of high school. Graduation is about five weeks away, and I am really getting excited. It is hard to believe that my high school years are finally over. My next step will be my entrance into college. It is sometimes scary when I think about leaving home and going to a strange place. I realize that I will be meeting new people and exploring new ideas, but I will miss doing the usual things I do at home and school. My friends will not be at college with me, and I hate that it is like that. All of us have to go on with our lives even if it is without each other. It will be hard to adjust to new surroundings, but I believe that I can handle it.

I have been on a college campus and visited many college classes. It was a totally different atmosphere, but one that I felt comfortable with. The classrooms were small, and I felt secure and safe. The campus was pretty and pleasant. There is a part of me that is really looking forward to meeting new people and making new friends. Most importantly, I am interested in learning new skills and enhancing my ideas about my future goals. I hope my high school years will help me to adjust to college life.

With the things I know and the things that I will learn, I should do well in college. I am determined to do my best and make it rewarding. My college experience will be one that I will learn from and gain valuable knowledge from that will help me become a future leader of tomorrow.

Keena K. Braxton

Regrets

When you light that weed,
You turn mean it seems.
You sniff cocaine and say
You have no name.
You only bicker when you're
drinking liquor.
Each time you drink a beer,
Death is nearer.
When you smoke crack,
I feel you'll never come back.
If you eat acid,
You'll be in a casket.
If you keep on getting high,
You're gonna die.

Laura Strickland

In the Eyes of a Child

by April Isbell

Why did Mama and Daddy stay together for me
I wasn't as happy as they thought I would be.
Disturbin' my sleep all times of the night -
Keeping me awake and full of fright.
Last night I heard them fussin again.
I wonder when and if this agony will ever end.

Dear God, even though I want to live with them both,
it hurts me inside to see what they're going through
for me.

Here I sit all alone, wonderin' if I'll ever be the envy
of other homes.
Yes, homes with happiness and unconditional love.

Dear God! Answer this plea, let it come from above
and surely, my wholehearted appeal shall be sent by a
dove!

VICIOUS

by
Kevin Strickland

Metallic blue on confederate grey,
The Ford is number one on the race day.
The Ford Mustang G.T. will take to flight;
The Chevy is behind and out of sight.
Decals say "Vicious" in big white letters.
With its five-star rims, straight pipes, and headers.
Let off the clutch, never missing a gear;
The Alpines are thumping like drums in the ear.
Hitting the button for nitrous oxide,
The road is closing in from side to side.
The yellow lines in the road now connect;
How wildly the mind the speed now affects.
The race is over. The G.T. slows down,
Ease into second, to cruise the next town.

College Life

Why am I going to college? I'm going to college to further my education. I truly believe that I have the ability to further my education so I may have a brighter future. I can make more money.

I think college will show me and help me to have a better life. Through college I hope to major in theology and minor in health and physical education. I think I can get a good job in either of these fields. I hope for the best in life, and I think that college will help me have the best in life.

I know that I can't go to college and play around, because I will be throwing a whole lot of my parent's money away. I hope that I do my best in college. I do thank Mrs. Anderson for her hard work, trying to prepare me for college, and when I pass her class I know that I'll be ready for college.

Helvis Moody

Duke Basketball

by Hybert Strickland

The University of Duke has created a basketball program which many experts are now calling the dynasty of college basketball. Under the helm of head basketball coach Mike Krzyzewski the Duke Blue Devils became back-to-back national champions, and they were the first to accomplish that feat since UCLA did it in 1973 under the legendary John Wooden. The past college basketball season Duke was ranked number one in the pre-season poll and remained at the top spot in college basketball all season. The Duke Blue Devils also lost only two of thirty-five games this past championship season. Duke also won the regular season Atlantic Coast Conference title and the ACC tournament over arch-rival North Carolina this past season. The success that Duke enjoyed this season and last did not just come about all of a sudden. The winning consistency of the Duke program is second only to the great John Wooden teams of the 60's and 70's in which they amassed ten national titles. Over the past six seasons, they have had twenty or more wins in a season. Duke has been to the National Collegiate Athletic Association tournament six of the past seven years. Duke basketball is the best and most consistent basketball program in the country and is by far my favorite college basketball team.

My Calculus Prayer

Lord have mercy, it's a quarter after ten;
time for my Calculus class to begin.

I say my prayers each day before I begin,
hoping to live through this class all over again.

Calculus, Calculus—it's the class—
numbers, figures, curves, and graphs.

Cos, sin, sec, and tan—
Lord, have mercy, I don't know if I can.

Because Tex says one who plans to fail fails to plan,
I work, work all day and work, work all night.
But it doesn't matter; I'm never gonna get it right.

When I can't even achieve my goal of a D,
Lord only knows what will happen on the AP.

Well, it's time for that big old test.
I stayed up all night, and I didn't get a bit of rest.

I woke up with my book at the foot of my bed,
and thought for once I had it all together in my head.

Wow, I know this stuff, it's multiple choice!
I think I'm going to rejoice.

All anxious and ready I am to begin,
Only to find out that I made a ten in the end.

The ultimate question—What does the future hold for me in this class?
Lord, will I ever pass?

Dee Dee Sarvis

A Word of Warning

by
Randy Lovett

The world we live in is a very rough place where everyone is trying to get ahead with no regard for the environment. It is hard to say when things started to get like this, but I often wonder if there is no turning back.

If we work together, I am sure that we can put our world back on the right track. We can clean our lakes and rivers, remove the litter from our city streets, and house our homeless. We live in one of the few countries where you can actually drink the water directly from the tap, so why don't we fight to keep our water drinkable instead of letting corporations get away with polluting the water left and right. The U.S. is a great superpower, so why can't we find a cure for the sickness that has descended over our country. If we are ever going to pull ourselves out of this rut we have fallen into, we must start now before things get any worse.

God's Little Mystery

One of God's softest most
carefree creations...
They float along with only the wind as their guide.
The most delicate thing
but at times feared by all...
Something so peaceful
but yet so destructive...
this mind-boggling creature could only be a cloud.

Brad Woodbury

My Hero

What is a hero? Who is a hero? In today's world there are many types of heroes. Heroes come in all forms, but most people who are regarded as heroes seem to be those of fame and fortune, especially sports figures. That is fine for some people, but my hero is a little more real and substantial--or at least I think so.

My hero is my grandfather, John Fulmer, Sr. He is blind and partially deaf, but he never lets that stop him. My grandfather is a multi-talented man who sings well, cooks, helps with the dishes, mows the lawn, and lots of other things that some completely healthy people can't even do! He never complains, and he makes the most of what he has got. My grandfather is a very determined and hard-headed individual. He once spent three hours trying to make a wall-phone fit onto a jack on the wall. My father and I both could not get it to fit, but after three hours my grandfather did. No one can tell him he cannot do anything.

A teacher once told him that he would never amount to anything and that he would never go to college. My grandfather said, "I'll show you," and that he did. He went on to college and became principal of the school he went to as a boy. The teacher who doubted my grandfather ended up as his employee. How ironic. My grandfather never uses his handicap as an excuse to get special treatment. He wants to be treated as a normal human being, and he is. He was recently asked to preach a sermon at his church. A friend said it was the best sermon they had ever had, and he never used any notes. He could not have seen them if he had. Whenever I am discouraged about anything, I think of my grandfather, and this thought encourages me. I have no physical or mental impairments, so there should be nothing that I cannot do if I have the determination.

Some people may have heroes who are more interesting, who are more famous and have money beyond belief. My hero may be just an ordinary man with a handicap, but he is the richest man of them all. When I think of modern-day heroes, I think of John Henry Fulmer, Sr., my grandfather.

Martin Fulmer

A LONG WAYS FROM HOME

by Shanda Shelley

It happened in Germany
A long ways from home.

The flight was late,
So we had an eight hour wait.

Everyone was tired;
Everyone was ill,
But all we could do was wait and be still.

Finally we boarded TWA
And thought maybe...we were on our way.

During take-off we heard a big boom
And found ourselves that night
in a hotel room.

Morning came and we loaded the bus;
We flew to New York and began to cuss.

We missed our flight
Which they couldn't delay
And were put up in a hotel
for another day.

The Spirit of Russia

I recently attended a meeting where a young Russian man was speaking. The young man, Andre, talked about the hardships now being endured in his homeland. He shared his plans for his own future here in the United States and his hopes for the members of the former Soviet Union. After the formal presentation, I had an opportunity to talk one-on-one with Andre. I deeply appreciated this chance because I have visited Russia, and I am very interested in the Russian people. Andre spoke some Russian, and I was thrilled because I actually understood a little. Language was not the only thing we discussed. We talked about my trip to Russia, his experiences here in America, and how these events will influence our futures. Andre was very interested in my opinion of Russia. I wanted to tell him about the warmth and love that I have for the Russian people because of their strong, accepting spirits, but I could not express myself clearly enough. I have spoken English all of my life, and he has spoken it for two years, yet he turned my emotions into words for me. "You fell in love ... the spirit of Russia."

This is exactly what I felt when I was there—a spirit of acceptance, joy, and brotherhood that I had never before experienced, and I had almost forgotten it existed. Andre reminded me of the belonging that I felt among the Russians. He recaptured the sense of an attainable peace that I had found in Russia and had lost over the months. Meeting Andre was an almost spiritual experience because he brought back the inspirational memories I have of Russia and her spirit.

Laurin D. Hayes

Superstitions

I have heard some superstitions in my years of growing up. If a black cat crosses the road, you are said to have bad luck; but if you cross an "X" in the windshield, it is said to counteract the bad luck. It is said that on New Year's Day that if you eat greens, you will get money. It is also said that if you eat black-eyed peas, you will have good luck. People say that if you walk under a ladder, you will have bad luck. I have heard that Friday the thirteenth is an unlucky day. If you break a mirror, you will have seven years bad luck. If you see a penny lying on the ground, don't pick it up. If it's lying heads up, then you can pick it up, for that's good luck. If you're walking together with someone and come up to a pole, don't split up. That's also bad luck. You should both walk on the same side of the pole. If your right hand itches that means you will get some money. Then again, if your left hand itches, you will meet a stranger. These are not all the superstitions in the world. These are just the only ones that I have heard in my years of aging.

Jason Elliott

The Perceptions of Amy

I am always quite fascinated by the questions my eight-year-old sister, Amy, asks and her perceptions of the world in which she lives. Amy is a very opinionated child, but she does not have the maturity to base her opinions on facts. During the last week in January, we watched the evening news together because I was interested to find out how she felt about the events which are happening in our world.

The first topic aired on that evening news broadcast was the food distribution problem in the former Soviet Union. Amy had recently learned in school that the Soviet Union no longer existed but had been "cut into little bits and pieces." She told me of the cold weather conditions and the fact that Moscow did not have much food. She also shared her reasoning that if Moscow did not have much food, then the entire country must be in the same condition. She also felt that someone must be stealing the Russian people's food, and the United States could help by having our police "check on it." I must admit that this topic is a difficult one for an eight-year-old to comprehend, but I was impressed that she understood the main idea of the news report and even offered a solution to the problem.

Amy was thrilled when the space shuttle's lift-off was broadcast. She described the shuttle as a machine which could take someone to the moon and "shoot fire" when it landed. Amy thought that space travel was very important since it might show us where new treasures such as gold could be. She even described how the space shuttle worked. She told me of the room which sat next to the space shuttle and had "a lot of plugs." Of course, there was also a person in this room who pulled a special handle and made the shuttle rise. Amy also said that the shuttle "worked on fire," and people were put on the space shuttle to make sure it did not go down "the wrong way." Amy told me that she would not mind going into space since she would be wearing a special suit.

I firmly believe that America can learn from its children. All too often, a child's innocence is crushed in the classroom and at home by adults who can comprehend only the "accepted." Innocence is what makes a child a child. It is an important state which will eventually be outgrown through the child's experiences. Childhood is a stage which can never be relived, and therefore, should be lived to its fullest. It is time for America to stop trying to conform its children into miniature adults. There is much to be gained from the children of our nation. America must take the time to listen to its posterity and not treat them as second-class citizens. Sometimes it is just as important to listen as it is to be heard.

Kim Willoughby

Some
times I
wish that I
was a kite, so
whenever I was
hurting I could just
fly away. Fly up into the
clouds and forget about my day.
I could pretend that I was a bird
and spread my wings and fly. Then
people would wonder why - I had to die. To
think - my life was once so great and suddenly
it went bad. I could not bare anymore, I
was tired of being sad. I climbed the
stairs up to the roof; just to start
a new life. Oh how grand it would
be if I could learn to fly. I
thought about the people I
would be leaving. I could
only wish them fare -
well, for there
is nothing
more to
ask
and
no-
thing
more
to
tell.

Angela Soles

What We Need

by Jeannie M. Hardin

Broken hearts
can only be
treated and
mended with a
little love,
tenderness, and
a lot of something we don't
have much of ... **TIME.**

The Rain

I
wish
I could
get a second
chance to tell
you all the things
that I never got to
say. It's too late because
you've gone away. I know
without you my life will
never be quite the same
I just wish that I could
stop the rain.

Terri Mckinnies

Easter Snow

by Mariel Phillips

As cute as she can be,
Born on Easter and it snowed,
So that was what she was named.
Always went out for me — usually to the very deepest end.
She gave me food and shelter while I was with her.
When I was born, she was there.
When she died, I was there.
Now Grandma is in heaven.
Soon I will be there.

The Saddest Day of My Life

The saddest day of my life was when I lost one of my best friends, Paul Collins. He was like a brother to me. We grew up together and we shared a lot of memories. Our families have traveled from the beach to the mountains together, and Paul always made everyone laugh constantly. He had a personality that would shine for miles.

All the little details come rushing back when I think of Paul—how we used to always go swimming and have our birthday parties together. I remember how every other time we shot fireworks, Paul would always end up throwing a bottle rocket in the box of fireworks and almost burning down the house. One time he stepped on a pencil and had to go to the hospital. And how anyone could sleep around him, I don't know. He always came to the house on Saturdays and jumped on my bed and tickled me until I would get up. He was always playing around and imitating someone, like Texford Strickland.

There are many other memories I have of Paul, but the one I will never forget is the one of December 28, 1991. This was the day I was told of Paul's death. I didn't know whether to believe it or not. I sat in bed for hours crying. "It couldn't be Paul," I kept saying to myself, "not my brother." This day was so long, I thought it was never going to end. I kept remembering all the times and memories we shared. I looked at old pictures and photo albums we had at the house and thought of his crazy, spunky attitude. One of the last pictures I looked at was Paul's senior picture. On the back of this picture, he wrote, "Ann, I hope you get the best out of life and that you will never forget me. (How can you, you're my sister) Just remember that I LOVE YOU!—Paul." I never realized how much those words meant to me, but I know now that I would never trade those words for anything in this world.

Alexa Ann Owens

With You Forever
by Eve Waddell

Even though I know your feelings for me
are tightly packed away,
I want you to know that in my heart
you will always stay.
For you are that special someone that
I dream about all night,
And oh how I long for you and me to
hold each other tight.
I think back on the time we had,
and pray for more to come
Because being with you is like a song
that will hopefully soon be sung.
Often I dream of you and me together,
but only this time it would be forever.
Forever is an awful long time to spend
with just one person,
But forever with you is not long at all,
and believe me that's for certain.

Why Is It?
by Kathy Johnson

if i am to be criticized
then why must i not criticize

if i am to be loved
then why not let me be loved

if i am to be cared for
let it happen soon

but if i an to be left alone
then let me be

Racism Today

Even now in my life I feel that people are not equal. It is 1992, and it has been over 40 years since the many marches, protests, and boycotts; however, in my heart I still can feel the prejudice and hatred in people today. I feel so proud to be a part of my race because of what my people went through. I am not prejudiced against any other races, but there is no race that I'd rather be than black.

In our politics today, our biggest, most powerful leaders are white. I often ask the question, "Will we ever have a black president?" Deep in my heart I know the answer is NO! When I sit and think about it, I feel like crying, because it is a shame how our nation can never change enough to accept a black president or a lady president. If Jesse Jackson was to be our president someday, or any other black person, he would be assassinated in a short period of time. I feel we have "come a long way," but we still have a very long way to go.

Why can't people see past the color of our skin and see the qualifications that the person offers? We are not equal yet, and it really angers me more than anything else. If we really have equality today, why don't we have integrated churches or more integrated neighborhoods? Our world has progressed tremendously, but we haven't progressed enough. Martin Luther King, Jr., said, "Most people are thermometers that record or register the temperature of majority opinion, not thermostats that transform and regulate the temperature of society." Maybe if everyone stopped being thermometers and became thermostats, a change would come.

Regina Treadwell

JUSTICE

by Tynell Stackhouse

The life where we live is not fair or just.
The role of the black man is short, but hard.
To us there's no chance for a better card,
A world of stereotype, who shall we trust?

To have chance's at life we shall strive, we must!
The low keeps innocent blacks held and barred,
Where the hopes and dreams of men are discarded.
All people need a chance, which they do lust.

There's fear of those who want to wear the crown.
some pick themselves up, only to be put down.
Martin Luther King said he had a dream;
They talked of peace, and never lost his steam.
Rodney King was beaten, he did no wrong.
In the system we try, but we can't belong.

Someone Special

When I feel like I can't go on,
He gives me his hand and leads me on.
When it gets harder and harder
for me to take steps,
he takes them with me and gives me a prep.

When I feel like I'm doing something wrong,
He gives me the courage to keep going on
He helps me, guides me, and shows me the way
for he is my night and he is my day.

When I'm feeling down, he picks me up
With some special hug or some special touch.
A hug or touch that last a lifetime.
It's mine forever and keep it in mind

Angela Soles

The Unwanted Place

by Robin Gilmore

It's dark here and nobody ever comes here that often.
People pass by it all the time but they never stop.
When they do stop, it's only to look and glare.

I've been to one once and what I saw was sad.
I felt bad being one of those people who never stops by unless forced to.
The old people here are nice and friendly but sick.
The outside is like a story book setting.
There are big trees, pretty flower and a fresh breeze blowing all the time.
When you walk inside, it is so different from the outside.
The inside is dark and cold, no excitement.
There are people waiting to die,
The walls seem to crumble with the silence.

Then there is a nurse without a smile to give everyone their medicine,
Then the day passes and night falls and this place just sits,
waiting for a visitor to come and bring a couple of smiles.

Have you figured

I don't know,
but I've been told,
that during the course of life,
he's getting old.

He's not big,
but he's not small,
he's not short, but he's not tall.

I don't like to brag, or begin to start,
but the biggest part is in his heart.

Now after these clues
that you have had,
I think you've figured
that it is my Dad.

Jody Whittington

What AJROTC Has Done for Me

AJROTC has changed me in many ways. It prepared me to become a good leader, which will help me become successful both in school and after graduation. I have a better attitude towards other people as well as myself. I am also able to communicate well with other people. Now I am able to stand up for my beliefs and rights when I feel that they are true. AJROTC has helped me to become a better citizen and to appreciate the armed forces for what they have done for our country. Most of all it has taught me self- discipline. It has also taught me teamwork, when being involved in a task. The mission of AJROTC is to motivate young cadets to become better citizens, and I am definitely motivated.

Ann Johnson

Vietnam Afterwards

Anonymous

"No! No! Get back! Get back". I continue to hear these words ring in my ears as my Dad settles back down on the chair to finish out his nap after work. My daddy was involved in the Vietnam Conflict. He was sent to Vietnam with thousands of other U.S. Marines. Daddy was just a little bit different. He was labeled "specialist." He disarmed boobie traps set up to take out whole units of men. Some people call them "target dummies." Daddy was good at his job but apparently not good enough—in his mind only—because six months after he arrived in Vietnam, he lost all his platoon except for him and two others. He doesn't talk about it much unless he is asleep.

When Daddy came home from Vietnam, he tried not to let his experiences affect his taking care of his family. He has times when he goes back to Vietnam like when he stares wild-eyed into space. He still thinks and dreams about six months after reaching Vietnam. After twenty years, he still thinks and blames himself for fifty-one deaths that were not his fault. I remind him that war is a bad place to be, but someone has to go to war. That is what war is. Someone has to die, and a few people have to live to relive the nightmare everyday. Daddy still thinks about those fifty-one friends who died, but at least now he can go on with his life.

Her Admirer

The person whom I most admire is my mother. She is very hard-working, she loves to help others, and she does all she can for her children. I truly admire her for these qualities.

My mother works hard to accomplish things she thinks are needed. She does all she can to keep things in the house, as well as out, organized. She's a one-parent mother, and she's done a very good job at keeping things on the right pace.

She also loves to help others. She helps them even when they're not helping themselves, but I admire her for having the patience even after she finds out they were taking advantage of her. She says, "You learn from your mistakes."

She does all she can for her children. I feel we are her first priorities. We can tell her almost anything whether it's good or bad, and she acts as though she always understands. She tells us how she feels about certain things rather yelling and telling us what to do, and it mostly works in her favor. She's a great mother and the person I admire.

Tammy Brown

How Can I Love You

by Terri Mckinnies

I love you because they say I should.
I want to forgive you, but I just can't.
Why should I when you didn't give me a chance?
I will not pretend to make you feel good.

I'm trying to understand what you've done;
I always wondered after all this time, why
when I needed you, you walked out of my life.
How can I love you, you left me alone.

I am trying so hard to get over my pain,
but, when I think of you, I feel the same.
I want to love you since you're my mother;
but how can I, when we don't know each other?
I could have a love for you like a mother,
if only you had loved me, as your daughter.

Life...

Life is thought of
when it is a lie,
Life is thought of
when it is to die.
Life is thought of when it is a dove
soaring high up in the skies.
Only to be shot down
(not knowing why)
in the darkness of the light.
just to be true in saying,
don't know if I'm right or wrong;
don't know why it came into making,
life just goes on too long...

Jody Watts

The Emptiness of Life

by
Jamie Elliott

Life is supposed to be full
Life should also be happiness.
But instead life is bull and
filled greatly with emptiness.

Life has emptiness with many faces.
With lies, deceit, and debt in many places.
Life is sometimes just a big commotion,
when it is filled with bad emotions.

Life is good, life is bad,
I'm glad my life is the one I had!
I've been through the bull and the debt,
But my life is something
that I'll never regret

God Has Promised

God has promised that when you are not strong,
God has also promised on life's dark night
That He will be there for your strength and song
And that He'll also be your guiding light.

God has also promised when friends depart,
And He has promised when you are depressed,
That His love will always console your heart
And that His word will relieve all the stress.

God has always promised sufficient grace,
God has promised you will see the rainbow,
To cope with life so you can win the race
He too recalls His promises to you.
God has promised that when you need a guide,
You and He will always walk side by side.

Becky Johnson

Friends—Two-Faced

Friends are not what they used to be. In my life time, I really truly thought that I had some true friends until I found out that other people can take their friendship away from you. This means that they were not a good friend from the beginning. One of my reasons is that others can take a friend and use them by taking away their minds and letting them think that they are their very best friend. They also can use them by spending money on them, riding them in their car, and by inviting them to their house.

See, I never thought that friends could be two-faced friends. I woke up to that feeling, and I am glad that I did because now I feel a whole lot better by just being with people that I can trust and ones that will not try to start trouble. I feel that they are jealous of me and that they cannot stand for me to get more attention than they. They will try to start trouble to make themselves look good in a crowd but it only makes them look bad. I waited until the right moment and I realized that people can turn against their own families just to make another person who needs a friendship.

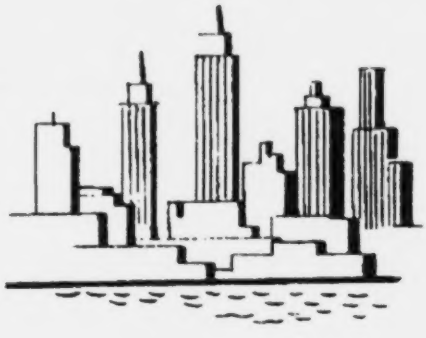
To hang around someone who has a bad reputation will cause people to think you are the same way and talk about you too. So I stopped that because my reputation is too good to hang around people like that. I now know that they are no longer friends of mine because I have no conversation for them anymore. That means that I have nothing to say to them because they let others influence them to think negative about me.

It is hard when you realize that people you trust the most as your friends can turn around and be your enemies in reality. See this has been a lesson that I have learned and will never forget. I am very proud of myself for coming out of the darkness and into the light for good. I remember friends are not friends when I cannot trust them and when they turn around and talk about me behind my back. I feel that they are jealous of me, so that is why they talk. At times it hurts for someone I like to hurt my feelings, but at other times it does not bother me at all because in the end I know that God will take care of me, and He will see me through it all.

Sylvia Graham

The City

by Eric Cooper



There is a place where people don't care
And would kill you because they don't like your hair.
It's a place full of crime,
a lot of nickel and dime.
Drug addicts, murderers, rapist, and thieves,
Running around while the cops iron their sleeves.
The place is Los Angeles and I can say,
I lived there awhile and survived someway,
But if not for there, I wouldn't be here,
And here is the place that I am a true peer.
I went from a city of crime and outcasts
To a town of people who learn from their past;
And now I feel if not for the city,
I wouldn't know people who care about me and feel some pity.

Our Infinite Love

Our love is like a circle that can't be broken.
It must have be fate that brought us together.
Although we separated at one time,
Our love was so great - it brought us back together.

I love you more today than I did yesterday,
And day by day that love grows stronger.
My love for you is greater that the earth
And deeper than the deepest sea - by far.

You are my past, present, and future -
And my eternity.
Even though we've had our ups and downs,
They have made us stronger.

Don't ever listen to other people;
Just listen to your heart and follow it.
It will lead you in the right direction
Because our hearts brought us together.

After all that we have been through,
It comes back to me and you.
Our love is my inspiration,
And you are all the meaning in my life.

Tiffiny Richardson

In My Mind

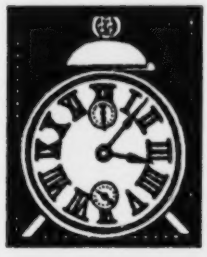
by Cornelius Gore

The place that I dream of is quiet and calm.
While in my mind it could fill my palm.
I see this place when I close my eyes,
But when I'm there it changes in size.
No harm comes to me while in this place;
There is just me, and no other face.
This place so peaceful it's hard to explain,
But when I'm there I feel no pain.
This place I see is only in my mind;
In reality this place I have yet to find.

Moving On

Kiss me goodbye, hold back your tears.
Wish me well, don't voice your fears.
This is it, I'm on my way.
Today is gone, tomorrow's a new day.
I can't stay here to wait, for my ship is coming in.
I know it's coming, I'm not sure when.
I'm running to meet it, my arms open wide.
This is life, it's for living, I'm not going to hide.
So wish me goodluck, please try to see.
I don't love you less, I just have to be free.

Becky Johnson



Time

Time is for setting things in order, but would we be confused if there was no such thing? Some aspects of having no time would be good and some would be bad. One good thing about it would be promptness; there would be no such thing. We would never be late because there would be no time to be there to start with. There would probably be more disadvantages than advantages. For example, no one would know when to eat, and if they did, they wouldn't know when to quit. There would be no concept of being finished or getting started. No one would know when to go to work or when to come home. No one would know how old they were. Everybody would be confused. We wouldn't be old because there would be no death if there were no time, or would there? I would go crazy without time, but they wouldn't because they wouldn't be in a hurry.

Timmy Collins

When Things Go Wrong

by
Gregory Hill

When things go wrong, as they usually will,
And your daily road seems to be uphill.
When all your friends are gone and debts soar high,
You try to smile, but you can only cry.
You wonder how much longer this will last;
You just hope it will soon be in the past.
When you really feel you would like to quit
And everything is gone to the pit,
Just turn around and look toward the sky.
Just let God wipe all tears from your eyes.
Then your troubles won't seem bad after all
When you at last have accepted God's call.
He will bring you out of this valley low
And put on your face a radiant glow.

FIRST LOVE

A love like yours must have been sent from above;
You were the nicest person I'd known.
It was amazing how much our friendship had grown.
Then it finally happened, you were my first love.

It was great being with someone like you everyday,
Even on my rainy days you made the sun shine,
but one day you decided you no longer wanted to be mine.
So my true love went away.

Even though we have drifted apart,
You still hold a place in my heart.
Even though we may never meet again,
My first love, you'll always be my friend.
You are still in my thoughts until this day,
My love for my first love will never go away.

Terri Mckinnies

Sunset

All the days I thought could never end
Are gone.
All the days that seemed so far away
Have passed.
All the loves I thought would last forever
Died.
so many happy moments
Are happy memories.
But I still have tomorrow
Filled with the hope
For things to come.
And, although I watch the sunset now,
I know it will always come again.

Eric Cooper

Friendship and Love
by
Becky Johnson

I never meant to love you;
it happen quite by chance.
I only wanted to be your friend,
Not share a new romance.
Something happened suddenly
before my heart could know.
I came to a side of you
that caused my love to grow.
As each day passes, I think
of the love we share,
and I pray that we can have
a life somewhere out there

VOICE

We are the hope of the future. Our generation, just as generations before us have and after us will, has the opportunity to make a difference. With higher education our worldly deeds are unlimited, but without the desire to learn, we limit ourselves of everything.

There are so many things that need to be done in this world, and we as individuals can do them. Putting a stop to racism, drugs, abuse, and murders are some of the things of our society that can be ended. If we can better educate ourselves and those generations to come, tomorrow will be a better day.

The enemy lies within ourselves. If we limit our minds, we limit ourselves and the right to be the best that we can be. Somewhere there is someone who has the potential to cure cancer and AIDS, but will that person push himself to gain the knowledge that is necessary? We often complain about the problems of our society, but little do we know, we are our own problem. Instead of complaining, we should take a stand, and not only state our opinions, but follow them through.

The key to our success lies within ourselves, but the question lies ahead: Will we obtain knowledge and put forth the effort? We are only as strong as our minds enable us to be.

Tamika Johnson

My Career

My future in nursing is very important to me. I want to become a nurse because I want to help people and take care of them. I feel that I can become an important part of a patient's life. I enjoy being around people and I especially enjoy helping people get better.

My career stands bright before my eyes. I can see everything wonderful falling into its place. I only want to become a nurse. I feel that being healthy is the most important aspect in life. I will dedicate my life to helping the sick. I know that I will be a success at being a nurse, and I will always keep the dream.

Suzanna Stackhouse

Why I Want To Be A Teacher

I want to be a teacher because there is a need for more qualified teachers. A teacher is someone who loves to teach and someone who loves children. I want to be a teacher because I want to be able to give my future pupils the advantage of learning. I want to be able to promote confidence and a positive image for others. The children today are dropping out of school at their own choice without considering the odds. I want to help the children to realize that they are our future and that they are going to be our future leaders. Today we have some teachers who don't realize that they are the students' role models. They should not set examples that lead to failures, but examples that lead to success.

If we had more teachers who took pride in their job, we would have more students interested in their education. I want to be the teacher who cares and takes pride in what I do.

Vanessa Reaves

The Day I Met Her

I remember that day as clear as no other,
this lady that I did not know was my mother.
We met when I was nine years old,
Even though I'm suppose to love you; my heart is cold.
That day something inside me died,
there you were standing in front of me with your arms opened wide.
Instead of being full of joy, I'm full of questions,
wondering why,
After all these years you decide to come into my life.
You all of a sudden, want to be a mother to me,
You gave me up, how can you expect this to be.
I will never forget this day as long as I live,
You now want you daughter's love, but I have none to give.

Maybe one day I will be able to forgive her,
As for now, she's a lady who gave birth to me, not my mother.

Terri McKinnies

THE UNKNOWN PLACE
by Jeannie M. Hardin

There is a place I have heard about;
a place where others go
to express their love and affection
for each other.
This is a place of tranquility and
a place of beauty and warmth.
This is a place of happiness
and a place where those who are
lonely and unhappy wish to be.
You ask me " What is this place?"
My answer is " I know not, for I
wish to go there myself."

My Mother

For all the times you've been there to hold my hand,
and always there to help me understand,

For just being there when I needed someone to talk to,
and for wiping my tears away when I was feeling blue,

For being my best friend when I needed one,
and for making boring situations seem fun,

For loving me unconditionally,
and for making me believe in me,

For encouraging my to be the best at whatever I do,
My dear mother, I would like to thank you.

Terri Mckinnies

What I Would Like to Remember is....

What I would like to remember is all my firsts like my first step, my first smile, the first time I really laughed, and my first word. I want to see the first thing I saw when I was born. And I wish I could see it as if I was a little baby again. I want to be able to remember the fist time I saw my mother and see how she was looking at me.

I also would like to see the way people acted the first time they saw me. I want to remember my first day of school and see how I got along with everybody and see they got along with me. Out of all my firsts I would like to know how my mother reacted to me. I like to know if she was happy, or excited, or if she was indifferent about it. Maybe it even happened and went unnoticed like it didn't matter.

Out of all the things I could or would like to remember I would like to remember all my firsts. But the way it looks, it would be better if I didn't have any firsts.

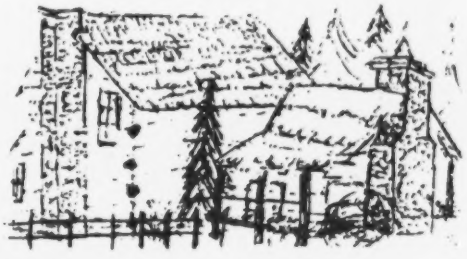
Loretta Brown

The Worries of Becoming an Adult

Being a teenager is supposed to be the best time of my life. But besides not having to pay bills or taxes and having my food and clothes bought for me, it is not always peachy-keen. I am not a child, yet I am not considered an adult—I am just stuck somewhere in the middle. I want to live my own life and do as I please, but sometimes I want to be immature and live the playful and carefree life of a child.

I know I cannot turn back the hands of time, but the responsibility of growing up sometimes scares me. Taking care of myself is a big step from being taken care of. If this is supposed to be the best time of my life, then why do I have to worry about good grades, going to college, and having the responsibilities of an adult? Maybe growing up will not be so bad after all, but it will be just as scary.

Michelle Hooks



A Conversation with Grandma

by Tracy Clemons

In talking with my grandmother, Ruth Brown, I learned that her childhood on a tobacco farm in the 1930's was very different from life on the farm today. During the 1930's there was no money and everything the family needed to survive had to come from the farm. What money the family could make came from growing tobacco so all the family had to help.

The day would begin before sunrise. The children had to feed the animals and do other chores before breakfast. After breakfast, the mules and drags were made ready and the entire family would go to the field to harvest tobacco. Everything was done by hand and the work was very hard. When the drag was loaded, it was hauled back to the barn for curing. The barn was handmade out of logs and the tobacco was hung from the top to bottom on tier poles. Once the barn was full, her daddy would start a fire in the stove to dry the tobacco. Her daddy had to stay up all night and keep the fire going to make sure the tobacco cured properly. It usually took about a week for the tobacco to turn golden. Many times the children would stay up and help. Often it would be like a party with the grownups telling stories and singing songs.

I enjoyed talking with grandma about her childhood and it gave me a chance to learn more about my family's history.

Growing Tobacco

by Frankie Bell

From the 1930's to the 1970's, tobacco was planted and worked entirely by hand. Tobacco seed beds were prepared in January and seeded. The beds had to be constantly weeded because there were no chemicals available to control the weeds. When the plants were large enough and the outside weather was warm enough, they were set in the field. Transplanters if available were pulled by horses or mules or else the tobacco was set by hand. Tobacco was cultivated until it was too tall to keep the weeds out. The tobacco was side dressed with fertilizer with a special plow pulled by a mule. The tobacco was suckered often to produce the largest leaves. There was no chemical control for suckers so it was a long, tedious task. When a majority of the field had topped-out, or had produced a blossom, hands would go through the field and break the tops out so that all the energy of the plant could be used for producing the leaves.

When the bottom leaves began to turn, they were picked off. These leaves are called the lugs. As leaves continued to ripen up the stem, the leaves were harvested and hauled to the barn for curing on a drag. Curing was done in the old days in log barns in which the tobacco was hung on beams called tier poles. A fire was kept burning in the furnace to dry and cure the tobacco. Once the tobacco was cured, it was placed on burlap sheets and placed in the packhouse. The tobacco was loaded on the wagon and hauled to market as soon as it opened.

Tobacco farming was very labor intensive in the old days with little mechanization. Though some aspects have remained the same, modern technology has enabled farmers to produce tobacco with less labor and time.

Marketing Tobacco

by Randy Lovett and Chris Collins

In talking with Randy's grandfather, Dock Lovett, we learned that marketing tobacco has changed greatly over the past several years. Dock Lovett, who owns a warehouse in Mullins, SC, says, " Use to be we could get along pretty well as long as we had enough help, but today without the use of computers and electronic scales, we couldn't keep up with the tremendous amount of tobacco we handle." He says, " Selling tobacco has changed greatly. Tobacco that once would have been thrown out now brings higher prices."

We were amazed at the stories of the tobacco market. How farmers use to load up their sheets on the wagon and haul it to the warehouse with their mule. The tobacco was moved all be hand and the use of pulleys and fulcrums. The opening of the tobacco market was like a big festival with farmers and their families coming from miles away to see whose crops would bring the highest price. Granddaddy told of the pride farmers use to have in their crop and how they would take time to see that it was just the right color and texture.

"Today, the emphasis is on quantity more than quality," says older farmers. To us, it seems that it has become that way in a lot of other things too.

Tobacco Farming Today

by Hybert Strickland and Timmy Collins

Tobacco farming today has changed greatly from days of old. The mule and cart has been replaced by the tractor and modern technology now permeates all aspects of production.

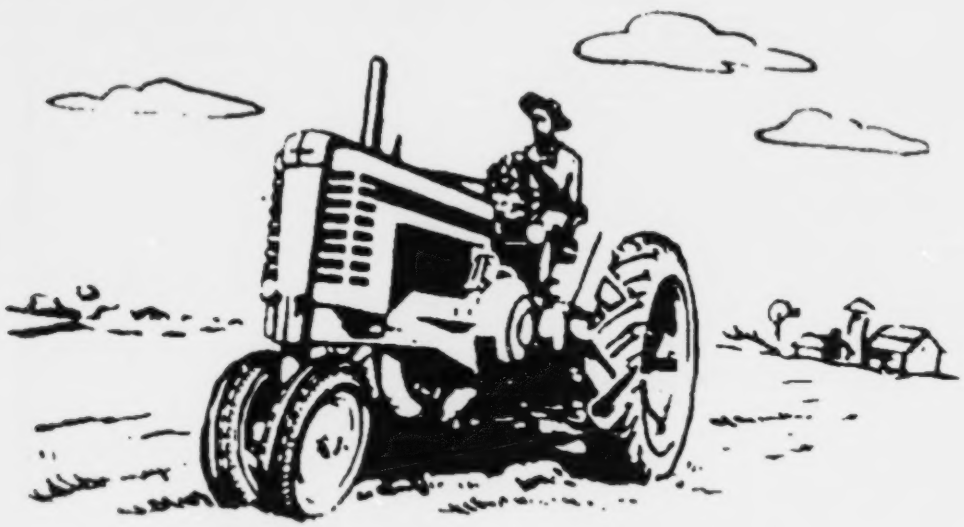
Modern farmers now grow their seedlings in a greenhouse. This greenhouse is specially designed for growing tobacco seedlings. The seeds are sown in special trays that are made out of styrofoam. These trays float on top of a pool of water which holds essential nutrients. The nutrient solution can be monitored to make sure the seedlings always have the right amount of fertilizer for optimum growth. A special mower is attached to a pulley system in the greenhouse and is used to make sure the plants are uniform in size.

When it is time to transplant the seedlings, the trays are removed and the plants are set using a special planter. The planter is designed to automatically set and water the plugs. Using this method more transplants survive and there is less need for replanting. Also, using the automatic setter, two people can now set as much acreage as a whole crew could using traditional methods.

Once the tobacco starts growing, chemicals are used to control growth and reduce suckers. Irrigation is used by some farmers to speed growth and produce a more uniform field.

When the tobacco ripens, it is harvested using automated harvesters which can be set to remove certain leaves or strip the plants. The leaves are loaded on drags and hauled to the bulk barns. There are several types of bulk curing barns, but the most common are box barns and rack barns. Box barns use boxes into which the tobacco is piled for curing. Many times the curing takes longer and may not give as uniform a color as the rack barn. The rack barn separates the tobacco on racks which slide on runners in the barn. The tobacco is layered which allows air to move between the racks and cure the tobacco more evenly. The curing is performed by gas burners.

Once the tobacco is cured, it is placed on sheets and stored until it is taken to the market. The farmer has to designate which warehouse he is going to use. The tobacco is hauled to the warehouse floor to await the weekly sale. Tobacco buyers bid on each lot using an auctioneer and the lot is sold to the highest bidder.



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Family Trees

This year Ms. Neal's students researched their family trees and compiled family histories as a part of the REACH project. This activity required the students to interview relatives, research family records including Bibles, deeds, newspaper clippings, etc. and compile a family history based on this information. These pages include excerpts and interesting facts about some of the families of the students in the Green Sea Floyds area.

Jamie Lanier

" The thing that stands out most about my family is their musical abilities. Out of my great grandfather's six children, five played the guitar and/or banjo. Christmas and Thanksgiving at the Lanier household consists of some good ole' pickin' and grinnin' "

Michelle Stickland

" The Strickland graveyard has a sort of guardian angel that can tell the future. This angel comes in the form of a bright light around Armiga Gee's tomb. When the light is seen a blood relative of his is going to die. "

Misty Blanton

" Great Uncle James Gore died when he stepped on a nail and got blood poison. Great Uncle Robert Gore died when a hog attacked him while he was feeding them. Great Great Uncle Everett Blanton died when a tractor ran over him. "

Kenneth McWilliams

" My great, great, great Uncle Mac Bryant died at Pearl Harbor under the command of General MacArthur. Great Uncle Legrand Johnson joined the Air Force at age 17 and fought in Korea and Panama. Great Uncle Alton Emanuel Johnson joined the U.S. Navy at age 15 and was on a ship in the Pacific during the attack on Pearl Harbor. "

Mariel Phillips

" My grandmother's name was Easter Snow Pridgen. She was given the name because it snowed on the day she was born which was Easter Sunday. She died on February 18, 1990 at the age of 76."

Jeanna Hayes

" My grandfather, Theodore Hayes, helped put the first telephone lines in Nevada. He married three women, but the last was annulled. My great aunt Allene was sent to prison for bootlegging liquor during prohibition. My great uncle John Calhoun Hayes, Jr. ran for governor of S.C. "

Eve Waddell

" A unique family tradition is to always place money outside the house on New Year's Eve night. This custom insures that you will make money all through the new year."

Charvonna Stackhouse

" My ancestors are said to be members of the Pygmy tribe, from a small country near Senegal located on the western part of Africa. Pygmy is a general term for anything short, especially people. Some Pygmies are called Negrillos. My great grandfather on my father's side was one of the first blacks to start a school for negro children."

Kristi Shelley

" The Shelley name comes from England and is sometimes spelled Shelly. Sir Richard Shelley was the last Grand Prior of the Knights of St. John and claimed to be the first Englishman to visit Constatanople since its capture by the Turks. "

Brad Woodbury

" My grandmother on my mother's side came from an extremely wealthy family and were the first in their county to have electric lights. My father's side of the family was a different story. They were flat broke and had to work for everything they had. "

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